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Sri P. RAMAMURTHI :—" விவசாயிகள் சம்பந்தப்பட்டவரையில், அவர்கள் மட்டும் கைது செய்யப்பட்டது என்ன காரணம் என்று சர்க்கார் ப்தில் சொல்லுவார்களா ?"

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" I do not know whether only agriculturists are in the picture. I do not have the exact figures. If the hon. Member wants any specific information, he may put a separate question."

Famine works in Nattika firka, Malabar.

* 258 Q.—Sri P. K. GOPALAKRISHNAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any famine works have been started in Nattika firka in Ponnani taluk, Malabar district; and

(*b*) if so, the amount sanctioned and the nature of the work?

The Hon. Sri M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :— " (*a*) & (*b*) The construction of the Edathiruthi-Edamuttam road as a low scale famine relief work at a cost not exceeding Rs. 43,000 has been sanctioned to relieve the distress in the area. For the same purpose, the expenditure of a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,44,000 has been sanctioned for the execution of metalling three sections covering a length of 14 miles of the Chettuvai Ala Road. Both these works would have been started by now. The Government have also since sanctioned the execution, by the Malabar District Board of the work of forming a road from Kottapadi to Kundakadavu at an estimated cost of Rs. 60,000 and also the work of improving the Moonnuppedika-Kakkathiruthi road at a cost of Rs. 16,000."

Sri P. K. GOPALAKRISHNAN :—" The Kottapadi-Kundakadavu road which the Hon. Minister has mentioned is not in Nattika firka. In view of the fact that famine conditions prevailing in Nattika firka are mainly due to the fall in remittances from Ceylon and the unemployment that is on the increase due to the slump in coir industry, will the Government come forward with immediate relief measures for the people in Nattika firka by subsidising the coir industry and beginning the construction of the Cheruva bridge which would give work for a lot of people? "

The Hon. Sri M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :— " I am sure the area in which relief works have been started is in Malabar, though it may not be in Nattika firka. As regards the construction of the bridge, the estimates are expected to be received from the Engineer. The work will cost Rs. 13 lakhs. The matter is under consideration. The hon. Member has suggested many long-range schemes. We are concerned with giving temporary relief to the people in the affected area. Other schemes are also under our consideration."

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SRI O. KORAN :—" May I know whether Government have any statistics regarding the cottage industries now prevalent or do they propose to start cottage industries like coir, mat-making, etc.? If so when do they propose to start them? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :— " Cottage industries also will be given some relief. That matter is also under our active consideration."

SRI C. H. KANARAN :—" What are the wages paid to the workers? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :— " I do not exactly know what the wage rate is."

SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR :—" In view of the fact that famine conditions in Nattika firka have become more or less semi-permanent and since we know that between the sanctioning of a work and its actual starting, some months or years might elapse, will the Hon. Minister inform us whether work has actually started in that area to give redress to the famine-affected people? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :— " When sanction has been accorded for a work, it means that it will be started and finished. I hope the work must have started."

SRI P. K. GOPALAKRISHNAN :—" May I know whether the Government have declared the area as a famine-affected area and applied the Famine Code and, if not, why are the Government giving only famine wages and not the normal wages? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :— " Without declaring the area as famine-affected, all necessary reliefs are sought to be given by sanctioning these works. As to the wage level, it is fixed under the law of supply and demand and the Collector is the best authority to decide it." 10·20 a.m.

Construction of a new calingula to Theradikulam, Pattukkottai taluk.

* 259 *Q.*—SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Food Production Department in Pattukkottai taluk of Tanjore district have constructed a new calingula to Theradikulam in Keeramangalam Vattam of Pattukkottai taluk in Tanjore district;

(*b*) whether the ryots in Mangadu village of Pudukkottai division in Tiruchirappalli district have made any representations that the construction of the new calingula to increase the water-spread area of the tank has injuriously affected the fields of the foreshore lands of Theradikulam;

(*c*) if so, the extent of damage to crops and lands; and